

REMARKS

This application has been carefully considered in connection with the Examiner's Final Office Action dated September 29, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following.

Summary of Rejections

Claims 1-23 were pending at the time of the Office Action.

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sachse et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,985,901).

Summary of Response

Claims 1-13 and 15-23 remain as originally submitted.

Claim 14 remains as previously presented.

Remarks and Arguments are provided below.

Summary of Claims Pending

Claims 1-23 are currently pending following this response.

Response to Rejections under Section 102

In the Final Office Action dated September 29, 2006, claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sachse et al. (U.S. Patent 6,985,901 B1).

The present disclosure is related to loading realistic test data into a database in a test environment. Using a data loading tool, data is read from a system database and copied into a test database. The data loading tool comprises an initialization component, a control generator, an extractor component, and a loader component. The initialization component receives a request for data and identifies the requested data using a first key. The initialization component identifies any data relationally associated with the requested data using one or more keys related to the first key in the system database. The initialization component then generates a load file indicating a record of the table, key, and any corresponding data for each requested data record. By using the first key and one or more keys related to the first key the data maintains its relational integrity in the load file. The control generator generates control files for extracting and/or loading data from the system database to the test database. The extractor component utilizes the load file to extract the requested and related data from the system database and the loader component loads the extracted data into the test database based on the generated control files.

United States Patent No. 6,985,901 to Sachse et al., herein Sachse, discloses monitoring network events, manipulating data related to the network events, and storing the manipulated data in a database (Sachse: column 10, lines 16-39; column 13, lines 30-67; column 18, lines 2-13; and column 33, lines 5-31). While Sachse does disclose that the manipulated data may be stored in a plurality of databases such as a database for testing purposes (Sachse: column 33, lines 25-29), there is no disclosure of loading a database corresponding to the claim limitations as detailed below.

I. Sachse does not disclose the claimed initialization component.

Claim 1 recites, "an initialization component operable to use data and a key of a first table of a database to generate a load file identifying at least one key related to the key of the first table and data associated with the at least one key".

The Final Office Action refers to column 34, lines 46-54 of Sachse to teach the above recited limitations. It is noted that the above identified section of Sachse discloses that since surrogate keys are used to uniquely identify records, a look-up process is performed. As was known to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention, surrogate keys are keys that are not derived from any data in the database. Having keys defined independent of the data which they uniquely identify allows the keys to remain constant and preserve database relationships in situations where data changes. One of the drawbacks to using surrogate keys is that one or more tables may have duplicate keys. When one key identifies more than one table or row of data within a table, the keys become disassociated with their corresponding data and may corrupt the data in the database.

Referring to the look-up process disclosed by Sachse, there is only disclosure that surrogate key information is extracted from a database to flat files. The flat files may be used to generate other flat files in a format that can be loaded into the database. In no way does this disclose that the flat file that was generated by extracting surrogate key information identifies "at least one key related to the key of the

first table" "and data associated with the at least one key" as claimed in claim 1. Rather, the flat file that was generated by extracting surrogate key information is merely disclosed to be used to "generate flat files in a format that can be loaded into the database tables." Sachse does not disclose that the flat file generated by extracting surrogate key information contains any identification of keys or data related to keys at all. There is no disclosure of using data and a key of a first table to generate a load file identifying at least one key related to the key of the first table and data associated with the at least one key.

In reference to the other disclosure in column 55, lines 60-64 and column 57, lines 40-44, Applicants recognize that Sachse does disclose to use keys to load data. As claimed, using data and a key of a first table of a database, a load file is generated identifying at least one key related to the key of the first table and data associated with the at least one key. Data that is to be loaded into a test database is extracted from a system database based on the load file. Generating the load file in this manner and extracting data based on the load file maintains the relational integrity of the extracted data as disclosed in paragraphs 0029 - 0035.

II. Sachse does not disclose the claimed extractor component.

Claim 1 recites, "an extractor component operable to extract data from the database based on the load file".

The Final Office Action refers to column 50, lines 36-39 of Sachse to teach the above recited limitations. As discussed above, this section teaches a script may be run

to load data into the database. The Final Office Action argues that since data is being loaded, then it is obvious that the data be extracted from a database. As a matter of formality, it is noted that claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), whereas it appears that it was intended to be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The Final Office Action also referred to column 67, lines 13-20. In this section Sachse discloses a `table_extract` script that extracts data from a database table and writes it to a flat file in a comma delimited format. Sachse further discloses in this section that the "script can be configured to extract data from as many tables as required." Sachse further discloses the process for extracting data using the `table_extract` script in column 67, line 34 – column 68, line 40. As disclosed by Sachse, the `table_extract` script requires `table_name` of each table that is to be extracted and any applicable filters. Sachse does not provide any disclosure of how the table names that are to be extracted are identified. More particularly, there is no disclosure of the table names that are to be extracted being based on the claimed load file or based on the flat file generated by extracting surrogate key information relied on to teach the claimed load file.

III. Sachse does not disclose the claimed loader component.

Claim 1 recites, "a loader component operable to load the data extracted by the extractor component into the target database utilizing the at least one control file".

The Final Office Action refers to column 34, lines 56-67 and column 50, lines 36-44 to teach the above recited limitations. Column 34, lines 56-67 discloses that a perl

script is used to load detailed data once a day during the nightly batch run and rollup data may be loaded at the same time. Column 50, lines 35-45 discloses a `data_loader` script that loads comma delimited data from a text file into a database. Sachse further disclosed in column 52, lines 20-30 that the `data_loader` script requires a `table_list` file to define a list of tables to load. Sachse does not provide any disclosure that the `table_list` file is generated using "data and a key of a first table of a database" or that the `table_list` file identifies "at least one key related to the key of the first table and data associated with the at least one key" as claimed in claim 1. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion that the data being loaded by the `data_loader` script is the same data that is extracted by the `table_extract` script. As such, the combination of limitations as a whole is not disclosed by Sachse.

In column 42, lines 29-57 Sachse also discloses a `cold_backups` script. As disclosed in lines 54-57 the `cold_backups` script generates a list of files that need to be backed up. Column 43, lines 10-20 goes on to disclose that the directory paths and file names that are to be backed up are hard coded into the script. Since the files that are to be backed up are hard coded into the script, there is no disclosure of generating the claimed "load file" using "data and a key of a first table of a database" as claimed in claim 1.

In column 46, lines 5-19 Sachse also discloses an `export_backups` script. As disclosed in lines 12-13, this script performs a full database export. As the entire database is being exported, there is no need to identify particular tables or data to be exported. There is no disclosure of generating the claimed "load file" using "data and a

key of a first table of a database" as claimed in claim 1. Also, there is no disclosure of extracting data based on a load file.

In regard to claims 2-10, Applicants note that each and every limitation has not been taught for at least the reasons detailed with regard to claim 1.

In regard to claim 11, Applicants note that each and every claim limitation was not taught by the disclosure of Sachse. Applicants note that similar limitations are present in claim 11 that were discussed in regard to claim 1. As such the arguments detailed in I-III are repeated herein for claim 11.

In regard to claims 12-18, Applicants note that each and every limitation has not been taught for at least the reasons detailed with regard to claim 11.

In regard to claim 18, Applicants note that each and every claim limitation was not taught by the disclosure of Sachse. Applicants note that similar limitations are present in claim 18 that were discussed in regard to claim 1. As such the arguments detailed in I-III are repeated herein for claim 18.

In regard to claims 19-23, Applicants note that each and every limitation has not been taught for at least the reasons detailed with regard to claim 18.

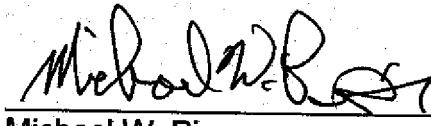
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above. If the Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be helpful in expediting the application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (972) 731-2288.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any further fees associated with any of the foregoing papers submitted herewith, or to credit any overpayment thereof, to Deposit Account No. 21-0765, Sprint.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/21/2006


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